CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A software application comprising computer executable instructions for transferring back-up copies of files from a first computer to a second computer, wherein said first and second computers are linked via a communication network, said software application comprising:

designating instructions executed by the first computer for designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the second computer;

identifying instructions executed by the first computer for identifying the second computer; and

transferring instructions executed by the first computer for transferring back-up copies of the designated files from the first computer to the second computer at the identified location via the communication network.

2. The software application of claim 1, wherein the designating instructions include

instructions for designating the one or more files to be transferred to the second computer;

instructions for designating a destination identifier associated with the second computer;

instructions for designating storage schedule data for back-up copies; and

instructions for storing back-up copies of the designated one or more files, the designated destination identifier, and/or the designated storage schedule data in an originating database.

3. The software application of claim 2, wherein the transferring instructions include retrieving storage schedule data to identify one or more back-up times for transferring back-up copies of the designated files from the first computer to the second computer, wherein the identifying instructions include retrieving the destination identifier for querying a server database to identify an Internet Protocol (IP) address of the second

computer, said server database being located on a server linked to the first and second computer via the communication network, and wherein the transferring instructions use the identified IP address to initiate a communication session with the second computer via the communication network and to transfer the designated files at the designated back-up times.

4. The software application of claim 3, wherein designating instructions include instructions for displaying a first input form on a display linked to the first computer, said first input form receiving input data from a user, and said input data designating the one or more files to be transferred to the second computer, the one or more back-up times, and/or designating the destination identifier.

5. The software application of claim 1 further comprising encrypting instructions executed by the first computer for encrypting the back-up copies of designated files, and wherein the transferring instructions transfer the encrypted files to the second computer for back-up storage.

6. The software application of claim 5 further comprising:

second designating instructions executed by the first computer for designating files to be retrieved from the second computer; and

retrieving instructions executed by the first computer for retrieving the designated files from the second computer .

7. The software application of claim 6 further comprising decrypting instructions executed by the first computer for decrypting the retrieved files.

8. The software application of claim 1 further comprising receiving instructions executed by the first computer for receiving back-up copies of designated files from the second computer at the identified location via the communication network.

9. A software application comprising computer executable instructions for storing copies of designated files from a first computer on a second computer, wherein said first and second computers are linked via a communication network, said software application comprising:

authentication instructions executed by the second computer for authenticating a transfer request received by the second computer from the first computer, and

file storage instructions executed by the second computer for storing the designated files on the second computer received in connection with an authenticated transfer request.

10. The software application of claim 9, wherein storage instructions include instructions for retrieving storage amount data and file storage data from the destination database, said storage amount data defining a maximum amount of storage space available on the second computer for storing files transferred from the first computer, and said file storage data specifying a current amount of storage space on the second computer being used for storing files from the first computer, and wherein storage instruction further include instructions for comparing the storage amount data to file storage data to determine if storage space is available, and wherein the one or more files are stored on the second computer if storage space is determined to be available.

11. The software application of claim 10, wherein said authentication instructions include instructions for retrieving first authentication data from the first computer and retrieving second authentication data from the second computer, wherein said first authentication data defines a first password and said second authentication data defines a second password, and wherein authentication instructions further include instructions for comparing the first password to the second password to determine if the passwords match, and wherein the one or more files are stored on the second computer if the first and second passwords are determined to match.

12. The software application of claim 11 further comprising second transferring instructions executed by the second computer for transferring one or more stored files

from the second computer back to the first computer in response to a retrieval request received from the first computer via the communication network.

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13. The software application of claim 12, wherein validating instructions further include instructions for comparing the user defined password to the password data to determine if the defined password is valid, and wherein transferring instructions transfer the one or more requested files to the first computer if user defined password is determined to be valid.

14. A method for facilitating the transfer of back-up copies of one or more files from a first computer to a second computer; comprising:

designating files from the first computer for which back-up copies will be transferred to the second computer;

identifying a location of the second computer; and

transferring the files from the verified first computer to the second computer via a communication network.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein designating files for transfer further includes:

designating a destination identifier associated with the second computer;

designating storage schedule data for back-up copies; and

storing the back-up copies of the designated one or more files, the designated destination identifier, and/or the designated storage schedule data in an originating database.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein designating files includes displaying a first input form on a display linked to the first computer, said first input form receiving input data from a user, and said input data designating the one or more files to be copied and transferred to the second computer, designating the one or more back-up times, and/or designating the destination identifier.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the storage schedule data identifies one or more back-up times for selectively retrieving files from the first computer and transferring the retrieved files to the second computer, and wherein the identifying includes retrieving the destination identifier for querying a second database to identify an Internet Protocol (IP) address of the second computer, said second database being located on a server linked to the first and second computer via the communication network, and wherein the identified IP address is used to initiate a communication session with the second computer via the communication network for transferring the designated files at the designated back-up times.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein storing files includes retrieving storage amount data and file storage data from the destination database, said storage amount data defining a maximum amount of storage space available on the second computer for storing files transferred from the first computer, and said file storage data specifying a current amount of storage space on the second computer being used for storing files from the first computer, and wherein storing encrypted files further comparing the storage amount data to file storage data to determine if storage space is available, and wherein the back-up copies of the one or more designated files are stored on the second computer if storage space is determined to be available.

19. The method of claim 14 further comprising verifying that the first computer can store files on the second computer, wherein the verifying includes retrieving first authentication data from the first computer and retrieving second authentication data from the second computer, wherein said first authentication data defines a first password and said second authentication data defines a second password, and comparing the first password to the second password to determine if the passwords match, and wherein the one or more files are stored on the second computer if the first and second passwords are determined to match.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:

retrieving one or more stored files from the second computer in response to a request received from the first computer via the communication network; and

transferring the retrieved files to the first computer;

21. The method of claim 20, wherein verifying includes comparing the user defined password to the password data to determine if the defined password is valid, and wherein the one or more encrypted files are retrieved and transferred to the first computer if user defined password is determined to be valid.

22. A server for facilitating the connection between a first computer and a second computer, wherein the server, the first computer, and the second computer are linked via a communication network, and wherein the first computer transfers back-up copies of files from the first computer to the second computer said server, comprising:

an assigning routine for assigning a unique identification code to each of the first and second computers;

a database for storing the unique identification codes assigned to each of the first and second computers, and for storing a corresponding an Internet Protocol (IP) address of each of the first and second computers, wherein said IP addresses are identified at the time the unique identification codes are assigned and during subsequent connections with the server; and

an identification routine responsive to input data received from the first computer for identifying the IP address of each of the first and second computers as a function of the input data, wherein said input data is the unique identification code of the second computer and wherein said identification routine queries the database to identify the IP address of the second computer, and wherein the first and second computers use the identified IP addresses for initiating a communication session and for transferring back-up copies of files therebetween.